

# Frans Robert

## BOZAR – Belgium



As a music journalist and band manager in Latvia I got to know Ezera Skaņas, a festival happening on a floating stage in the middle of a lake at five o'clock in the morning. As the concept got me hooked, I decided to volunteer for the festival. I ended up driving artists to their platforms on boats and constructing stages of two floors. Before I knew it I was one of the main organisers the next year, which I still am till this day.

I have become hooked to organising festivals ever since and it became my full time profession at the Centre for Fine Arts (BOZAR) in Brussels. As a production officer there I organised electronic music events and festivals, hip hop concerts related to an exhibition about the history of Brussels hip hop, multidisciplinary contemporary artistic programmes from Africa and its Diasporas (Afropolitan) and many other festivals. I learned how to function in a big cultural institution where multiple art forms coexist.

I also kept on organising festivals on the side: I did the art curation of Deep in the Woods, a festival that had the goal of being Belgian (in a cultural landscape that is quite divided along linguistic lines). Earlier this year I was the head of production of BIPOD (Beirut International Platform of Dance) in Lebanon, having the chance via the Festival Academy to work in another cultural context than my own. I also helped to organise Meakusma, an experimental music festival in Eupen (in the German-speaking area of Belgium).

My new upcoming challenge is the organisation of Yo!Fest in 2020. The festival, organised by European Youth Forum, combines debates, workshops, talks, exhibitions and performances to celebrate what it means to be a young European.